

Ames Hydroelectric Plant
(Telluride Power Company, Power Station)
Ames Vicinity
San Miguel County
Colorado

HAER No. CO-2

HAER
COLO,
57-AMES.V,
2A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

CO-2
AMES HYDROELECTRIC PLANT

HAER
COLO.
53-AMES.V,
2A-

Date: 1891, 1895, 1905

Location: Ames vicinity, San Miguel County, Colorado

Engineer/Builder: L.L. Nunn and Charles Scott

Owner: Originally; Gold King Milling and Mining Co. later
The Telluride Power Company
Presently; Western Colorado Electric Company

Significance: In 1890-91 L.L. Nunn built the world's first single-phase AC power transmission system at Ames in order to power the nearby Gold King Mine's stamp mill. The plant operated under a head of 320 feet and consisted of a Pelton water wheel connected to a 3000 volt, 133 cycle Westinghouse AC generator. The current was then directly transmitted 2.6 miles to the motor powering the stamp mill.

The original powerhouse at Ames was replaced with a larger wooden structure around 1895 and, in 1905, a third powerhouse was built to replace the c.1895 structure. Today the 1905 powerhouse is still in operation.

The documentation in this file primarily consists of historic photographs showing the c.1895 and 1905 power houses. There is one photocopy of the 1890-91 power plant. Further references to the original power plant may be found in the June 15, 1892 issue of The Electrical Engineer (pp. 601-603).

Historian: Donald C. Jackson

Transmitted By: Dan Clement, 1983